

House File 2397 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2397
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 658)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning liability protection for volunteers on state
2 lands.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 461A.81 State lands volunteer
2 program — liability.

3 The department shall establish a state lands volunteer
4 program to authorize nonprofit organizations, and individuals
5 providing services on behalf of the nonprofit organizations,
6 to provide, at no compensation, volunteer services for the
7 benefit of state parks and recreation areas, state game
8 and forest areas, or other lands under the jurisdiction of
9 the department of natural resources. The department shall
10 adopt rules governing the administration of the program to
11 include eligibility requirements for nonprofit organizations
12 participating in the program and provisions governing approved
13 volunteer duties or services. Nonprofit organizations,
14 and individuals providing services on behalf of nonprofit
15 organizations, authorized to provide volunteer services for
16 no compensation by the department pursuant to this section
17 shall be considered state volunteers and afforded the same
18 protections as provided in section 669.24 while performing
19 approved volunteer duties or services on state lands, as
20 described in this section, as a volunteer.

| 21 | EXPLANATION |
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22 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
23 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

24 This bill requires the department of natural resources
25 to establish a state lands volunteer program to authorize
26 nonprofit organizations to provide volunteer services for the
27 benefit of state lands. The bill requires the department to
28 adopt rules governing the administration of the program. The
29 bill provides that nonprofit organizations, and individuals
30 providing services on behalf of the nonprofit organizations,
31 authorized to provide volunteer services for no compensation
32 shall be afforded the liability protections of a state
33 volunteer under the state tort claims Act.